GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6063
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2005
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PANCHAYATS
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to encourage community development through Panchayats in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has drawn up any plan or scheme for the development of Community Centres which can provide drinking water, health care services and free education to poor sections of the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR):

(a) The Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution lists out 29 matters that may be devolved upon Panchayats by States, all of which have a bearing on holistic community development.

(b) Details of the functions devolved upon Panchayats by States are given in statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The compendium of conclusions reached by consensus after seven Round Table meetings of the Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj comprehensively addresses issues relating to the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in holistic community development. The Central Finance Commission makes recommendations on the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of the States to supplement the resources of the Panchayats on the basis of the recommendations of the State Finance Commission. The Twelfth Finance Commission, which has recently submitted its report to the Government, has recommended that from 2005-2010, the Consolidated Funds of States may be augmented by Rs. 20,000 crore so as to supplement the resources of Panchayats so that they are encouraged to take over assets relating to water supply and sanitation and utilize the grants for repairs, rejuvenation and O&M of these assets.

The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, a scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development, which is being implemented by Panchayats at the District, Block and Village levels is also aimed at the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure while principally providing additional wage employment and food security in rural areas.